



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

June 15, 2010

Deborah Larkin  
South Carolina Department of Education  
Division of Teacher Quality  
3700 Forest Drive, Landmark II Building  
Suite 500  
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Deborah:

On June 11, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response satisfactorily addresses the single finding identified in the monitoring report, which required the State to strengthen its monitoring of LEA assurances that poor and minority students are not taught at higher rates than other students by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers. In response, the SCDE has revised its Title II, Part A application form to require, beginning with the application submitted for the 2010-2011 school year, that LEAs describe their equity strategies and the Title II, Part A funds they will use to support them. The SCDE has also adopted new procedures to audit on a regular basis LEA success in achieving the goal of teacher quality equity. Additionally, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, it will also require that LEAs produce evidence, during the SCDE's regular on-site monitoring process, that they have implemented their equity strategies. The SCDE will submit to the Department a sample of how one of its larger school districts completes the new portion of the Title II, Part A application by November 15, 2010. It will also submit by June 1, 2011, the documentation it receives from the largest school district with which it conducts an on-site monitoring visit during its 2010-2011 monitoring cycle.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined the SAHE was in full compliance with all Title II, Part A requirements.

We commend your excellent work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Michelle Meier  
Program Officer

cc: Paula Gregg

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